

Remarks

Support for the Amendments

Support for the amendments to claims 46 and 65 and for new claims 98-106 can be found throughout the present specification, specifically at page 51, paragraph 96; at page 66, paragraph 158 through page 68, paragraph 160; at page 80, paragraph 190 through page 81, paragraph 191; and throughout the Examples and Drawings. Hence, these amendments do not introduce new matter, and their entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

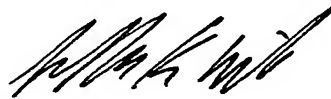
By the foregoing amendments, claims 46 and 65 have been amended and new claims 98-106 are sought to be entered. Claims 47, 62-64 and 66 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 46, 48-61, 65 and 67-106 are pending in the application, with claims 46, 65, 86 and 98 being the independent claims.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jeffrey K. Mills
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 56,413

Date: August 10, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600